

October 19, 2006

Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

I serve as a member of the Tennessee General Assembly and as Speaker of the Senate, and I am writing to urge you to approve the merger between BellSouth and AT&T.

In Tennessee, this merger was approved without conditions, because the Tennessee Regulatory Authority found the transaction to be in the public interest. As I understand it, that finding was echoed by every regulatory commission that reviewed the transaction and also by the Department of Justice.

It causes me concern that the delay by the FCC to approve the transaction is harmful to Tennessee's economy, its telephone consumers, and to current BellSouth employees here in Tennessee. After reading the October 13 letter from AT&T posted on the FCC's website, I am particularly frustrated to learn that AT&T has offered concessions (which were not required in Tennessee or any other state affected by the merger) and yet the FCC has still not acted.

I urge you to act now to show Tennesseans and Americans that government can put what is best for the people ahead of politics.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Wilder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John S. Wilder

JSW:jhc